Qwest Foundation for Education
Competitive Sub-grant Application Assurance Sheet

Project Title: Never Miss a Teacher Teach Amount of Request: $ 8,438.00

District Name: American Falls Number: 381

Name of Certificated Teacher (or "lead teacher" if more than one): Terrell Gardner

Name of School currently teaching at: William Thomas Middle School

Years taught in Idaho K-12 public education: 28

Content area(s) that you are teaching in Idaho K-12 public education: Technology

I certify that if I receive a Qwest Foundation for Education Grant –

- **I agree to create a video highlighting my project for the purposes of sharing best practices with other Idaho K-12 teachers.**
- **I agree to do one presentation on my project to other Idaho K-12 teachers before October 31, 2010.**
- **I agree to submit an electronic report to the Idaho State Department of Education before October 31, 2010.**

Superintendent Name (print)	E-mail	Telephone
Ron Bolinger	ronb@sd381.k12.id.us	226-5173
Signature		
Principal Name (print)	E-mail	Telephone
Randy Jensen	randyj@sd381.k12.id.us	226-5203
Signature		
Teacher or Lead Teacher (print)	E-mail	Telephone
Terrell Gardner	terrellg@sd381.k12.id.us	226-5203
Signature		

Abstract

Project: Never Miss a Teacher Teach

Listening to and understanding the direct instruction part of a lesson is critical to a student's understanding a concept and completing the other parts of a lesson. Students who miss or don't understand the direct instruction of the teacher fail to gain important knowledge.

The purpose of this project is to provide students who miss or who didn't understand the direct instruction a chance to watch their teacher teach the lesson. This project would provide a teacher with a video camera, tripod, and wireless microphone so the direct instruction portion of the lesson could be recorded. In addition, this would provide the school with two computers that could be used for uploading the recorded lesson to the school's website where it would be accessible for students to watch. Licenses for Adobe Premier and Dream Weaver Software for use in compressing the video and managing the web page will also be needed.

We have piloted this project this year with one math teacher. Her recorded Algebra lessons have been uploaded to our website. Response has been very good. Eighty percent of her Algebra students have reported watching one of the lessons because they missed class or didn't totally understand the lesson the first time. When a student is absent, if they have not already watched the lesson, when they come back to school they can watch the entire instruction part of the lesson from any computer in the school. Normally a teacher would spend time with each absent student explaining the assignment, providing only a portion of the direct instruction the rest of the class received.

Another benefit of this project is when teachers watch their recorded lesson they are able to reflect on their instruction. Our teachers that are National Board Certified claim that the reflections they did on recordings of their teaching was extremely valuable. The quality of instruction at our school will improve.

Ten percent of our students take an extended Christmas break to visit family in Mexico. They will often miss 5 to 10 days before and after the break. Once we have developed a bank of lessons we could burn them a DVD of the lessons they would be missing and send it with them. These students often do their best to do homework while they are gone, but without the direct instruction what they can do is limited. Having a portable DVD player where they could watch the teacher present the lesson could help them complete a greater portion of their work. We have a local merchant that is willing to provide us with the portable DVD players for this project.

Narrative

Project: Never Miss a Teacher Teach

William Thomas Middle School has a rich history of using technology to enhance and improve the quality of the learning experience for our students. Three of our teachers have served as Technology Fellow for the Albertson Foundation. They are highly trained technology instructional leaders. In addition to our staff being highly trained in technology our staff has developed many programs that serve as models across the state and the nation.

Over the past three years all of our staff has been trained in SIOP 1 and 2 (Sheltered Instruction Operational Protocol), TESA (Teacher Expectation and Student Achievement, and A Framework for Understanding Poverty. These professional development opportunities have helped our staff develop and refine their teaching strategies.

These efforts have led us to show great improvements in our reading ISAT scores. Over the past two years our Reading scores on the ISAT test have gone from 73% proficient to 83% proficient. In Math from 68% to 73% proficient. In Language Usage from 52% to 66% proficient. While we have shown growth in Math we need to make significantly more growth. We feel this project will have the biggest impact on our Math scores.

Through the efforts of our Gear-Up coordinator and the Computers for Kids program we have provided home computers for over 200 of our students. In addition to the computers a local internet provider has provided free internet services to students from low income homes. This has gone a long way in leveling the "playing field" for all students in respect to using technology. With almost every student having a home computer with internet access they will be able to take full advantage of this program.

Each of the teams at our school has a computer lab. Students receive daily instruction in technology for all three years at our school. This technology instruction is almost always integrated with one or more subject areas. When a student at our school is learning a spreadsheet application it is normally done as a part of the lab results of a science project they are working on.

Several of our 7th and 8th grade students are enrolled in a Broadcasting class. In this class students learn how to use a video camera, download video to a computer and edit the video. These students implement a daily live video broadcast for school announcements. These students would film teachers and upload the video. We eventually will train teachers to upload the video.

Before applying for this grant we first wanted to pilot this idea with one teacher. We did this so we would be sure that videoing a teacher would not disrupt the learning process, to see exactly what equipment was needed, to make sure that we could upload video to our website and most importantly to see if students would utilize it. We have found that students appreciate it, class was not disrupted, uploading is a relatively easy process and newer video cameras are needed to provide a clear enough picture to easily read the board projected images.

Narrative

Project: Never Miss a Teacher Teach

Project Description

The purpose of this project is to provide students who miss or who didn't understand the direct instruction a chance to watch their teacher teach the lesson. This project would provide a teacher with a video camera, tripod, and wireless microphone so the direct instruction portion of the lesson could be recorded. In addition this would provide the school with two computers that could be used for uploading the recorded lesson to the school's website. This would allow students who were absent or who didn't understand the direct instruction a chance to see the lesson presented by the teacher. Licenses for Adobe Premier and Dream Weaver Software for use in compressing the video and managing the web page will also be needed.

Project Team Members

Principal - Randy Jensen

Role - Oversee the project. Monitor, motivate, and inspire teachers. Involve parents.
Qualifications:

- 2004 - Idaho State Principal of the Year
- 2005 - National Principal of the Year
- 2008 - Idaho Middle Level Educator of the Year

Project Coordinator - Terrel Gardner

Role - Provide training to teachers and students. Oversee the uploading and compressing of videos. Maintain equipment.
Qualifications:

- 1998 - Idaho Middle Level Educator of the Year
- 2001 - Technology Fellow for the Albertson Foundation
- 1995-2009 - Taught over 30 different technology courses to district teachers

Lead and Pilot Teacher - Jeanne Anderson

Role - Provide training and assistance to teachers.
Qualifications:

- 2003 - Received her National Board Certification in Mathematics
- 2008 - Member of the Idaho State Math Curriculum Committees

District Technology Coordinator - Thor Larson

Role - Monitor and service web server and content management system.

Other teachers implementing this project:
Role - To have classroom instruction recorded and work with student cameramen.
Nancy Rosberg - Mathematics
Marie Peletti - Mathematics
Shirly Bammert - Mathematics, Language Arts, and ESL
Troy Singleton - Language Arts
Kim West - Language Arts
Gary Smith - Science
Carol Bowman - Science
MariLana Buck- Social Studies
Melanie Williams - Social Studies
Don Anderson - Art

Student Cameramen
Role - Video teacher instruction and then take camera to video lab where they will move the video to a computer, compress the video, label the lesson and then upload the lesson to the web server.

Feasibility
With a pilot project currently being implemented we have evidence that this project is very feasible. WMTS has a long history of successfully implementing innovative projects. There is a lot of excitement at our school to accomplish this project. Teachers and students have the necessary technology training. Technology is embedded into the daily practices of all of our staff members. Students and parents are also very excited to have this technology available to help them succeed.

Sustainability
The reward of this program will start to be felt as soon as the grant is received and instruction is being recorded. Once students get used to having their teachers lessons available to them on-line they would not let it stop happening. This is one of those projects that will be in place a long time.

This project will free up teachers time that is currently spent instructing students who have been absent or will be absent. Teachers will seek the ongoing improvements in their instruction from the reflection they will do by watching the recordings.

Parents will like the improved grades that will be the result of fewer missing or incomplete assignments. This will also allow parents to become more involved in their child's education. As parents help their children sometimes they need a review of how to do a formula or complete a problem, which they will easily be able to do by watching the recording of the teachers' instruction.

The school Parent Advisory Committee is in full support of this project.

School/District Support
The School district technology coordinator has completed the preliminary work of setting up a web server with the hard drive space needed to store the recorded lessons. He has also set up a user friendly content management system that allows the recordings to easily be uploaded to the web server.

The District Superintendent and School Board have approved this project and are eager to see the implementation.

Anticipated Outcomes/Impact
1. Increase in assignment completion due to students being able to watch the direct instruction the teacher provided the class when the student was absent.
2. Increase in quality of student work due to students ability to watch the teachers instruction for a second time if they did not fully understand the first time.
3. Increase in parent involvement with their students in completion of homework.
4. Improved quality of instruction due to teachers being able to watch and reflect on their teaching.
5. Student cameramen will gain experience in operating a video camera, transferring and labeling files, and uploading videos to a web server.
6. There will be a more uniform approach to the start of a lesson across the school. All lessons will start with the teacher identifying the following:
    - Lesson objective
    - Language objective of the lesson
    - Key Vocabulary words
    - Lesson activities and time-line
7. Relieve teachers from the time demands of instructing students who are absent.

Presentation to other K-12 teachers
WTMS has served as model school for may years. Staff members have done over 25 presentations at state and national conferences over the past 5 years. Representatives from 30 schools from all across the west have visited our school to learn about the different programs being implemented. This project could serve as a model for other schools. Our first presentation about this project would be done at the Idaho Middle Level Association's Annual Conference in Boise the end of March. Typically over 500 middle level teachers and principals from across the state attend this conference.

Scope and Sequence Project: Never Miss a Teacher Teach

Scope
This project will include 80% of the school teaching staff and 100% of the school's students.

Project Goals:

- Increase in assignment completion.
- Increase in quality of student work.
- Increase in parent involvement with their students in completion of homework.
- Improved quality of instruction.
- Increase students opportunities to operate a video camera and work with video.
- Formalize a more uniform approach to the start of a lesson across the school.

Time-line:

Date	Activity	Person Responsible
Fall 2009	Pilot recordings to determine feasibility and student response	Project Coordinator and Pilot Teachers
Fall 2009	Set-up of web server and content management system	District Technology Coordinator
November 09	Complete grant application	Principal and Coordinator
January 2010	Purchase equipment	Project Coordinator
February 2010	Train teachers and students on use of video equipment.	Project Coordinator
February 2010	Have each teacher record at least three lessons using a uniform start of a lesson as a trial.	Principal and Project Coordinator
End of February 2010	At parent/teacher conferences introduce parents to website and demonstrate how to watch a lesson	All Teachers
March 2010	Start full-scale project	Teachers and Students
Late March 2010	Have teachers present project at the Idaho Middle Level Association's Annual Conference in Boise	Principal and presenting teachers
May 2010	Have students and teachers complete effectiveness survey	Principal and teachers
June 2010	Evaluate grades, testing data, and effectiveness surveys	School leadership team
October 2010	Produce video and submit electronic report	Project Coordinator

Evaluation Criteria
To evaluate this project we will review ISAT test scores, classroom grades, assignment completion rates, teacher and student surveys, number of lessons that have been posted on the website and the number of hits on the website.

Budget Narrative

Project: Never Miss a Teacher Teach

This project will necessitate the use of the following materials and supplies:

In order to videotape the lessons, the project requires the use of video-cameras which utilize some type of removable media other than tapes. This will allow for fast uploads of the recorded material onto the video-editing computers. The additional memory sticks are will allow teachers to share cameras with other teachers and still allow them immediate access to their own video content. Wireless microphones make it possible for the teacher:s voices to be picked up accurately by the camera, without being overwhelmed by student voices and classroom background noise such as heating and air-conditioning systems.

In order to maintain stable video captures, the cameras will be mounted on Sony tripods which are capable of directing the camera view from a position lower than the camera itself. In this manner, the video can be obtained without any disturbance to the view of students seated behind the camera operator. Floor lamps make it possible to dim the lights in our classrooms so the cameras can pick up the lesson content that is presented on video or overhead projectors.

It will be necessary to purchase 2 video-editing computers to prepare and edit the videos for use on our online website. We also plan to utilize students to upload and help maintain the online learning site- this requires the use of the Microsoft Frontpage software, which the 7th and 8th grade students are capable of using- rather than the raw HTML code which currently is used to maintain our video website.

Qwest Foundation for Education Grant
Budget Sheet
Project: Never Miss a Teacher Teach

Activity	Materials and Supplies	Capital Objects	Quantity	Price per Unit	Total
Recording the teacher Lessons		Sony DCR-SX40 Palm-Sized camcorder	10	$229.00	$2,290.00
		4GB Memory Sticks	20	$12.00	$240.00
		Sony VCT-50AV Remote Control Tripod	10	$57.00	$570.00
		Professional Wireless Microphone System For Camcorders	10	$119.00	$1,190.00
		Floor lamps	10	$35.00	$350.00
Video editing and conversion software for editing, preparing, and converting video for the internet.	Adobe Creative Suite 4 Production Premium		2	$600.00	$1,200.00
Processing and uploading the lesson Video		Video editing computers	2	$1,200.00	$2,400.00
Creation of online video Web-pages	Microsoft Frontpage softwrare		2	$99.00	$198.00
				Grand Total	**$8,438.00**